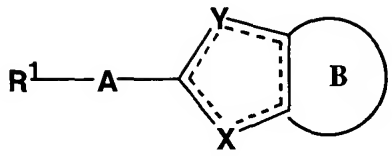
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein A is –NR(C=O), -(C=O)NR, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, or a bond;

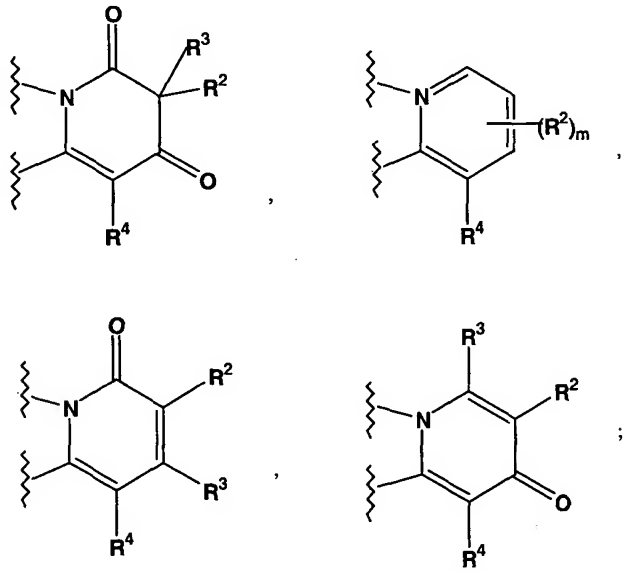
X is selected from –N=, -NR^9-, -O-, -S-, -CR^{10}-, >$C(R^{11})_2$,

Y is selected from –N=, -NR^9-, -O-, -S-, -CR^{10}-, >$C(R^{11})_2$;

with the proviso that when Y is O or S, X is not O or S;

dashed lines represent optional double bonds;

ring B is selected from the group consisting of:



wherein each R, R^1, R^2, R^3, R^5, R^6, R^9, R^{10}, and R^{11} are the same or different, where ever they appear, and each is independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-; wherein each of the aforesaid group members, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-,

$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl-, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-, $(C_6$-$C_{10})$aryl-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclyl-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-, $(C_6$-$C_{10})$aryl-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclyl-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl-, $(C_6$-$C_{10})$aryl-$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclyl-$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl-, $(C_6$-$C_{10})$aryl-$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl-, $(C_3$-$C_{10})$cycloalkyl-$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl-, $(C_6$-$C_{10})$aryl-$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heterocyclyl-$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl-, and $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl-, may be optionally independently substituted with one to three suitable substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, -CN, $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl-, $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkoxy-, CF_3-, CF_3O-, $(C_6$-$C_{10})$aryl-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-, $(C_6$-$C_{10})$aryl-$(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl-, $(C_1$-$C_{10})$heteroaryl-$(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl-, HO(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl-(O)(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl-(O)(C=O)$(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl-, $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl-(C=O)-, $(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl-(C=O)$(C_1$-$C_4)$alkyl-, -(S=O)R, $-(SO_2)$R, and NR^7R^8 wherein R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from hydrogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

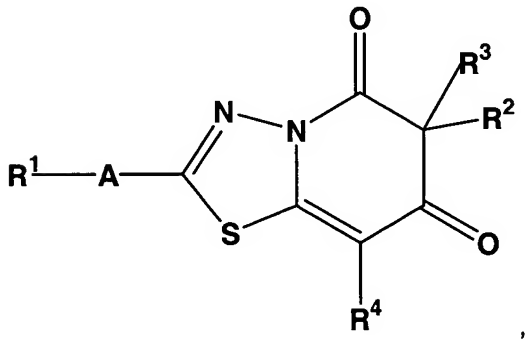
wherein each R, R^3, R^5, R^6, R^9, R^{10}, and R^{11} may further independently be hydrogen;

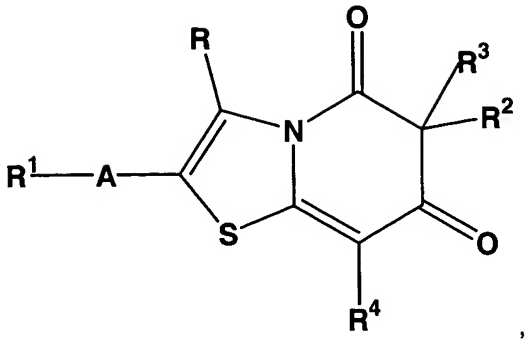
R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-, and R^4 may be optionally substituted with one to three suitable substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, -CN, CF_3-, and CF_3O-;

m is an integer from 0-3; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:





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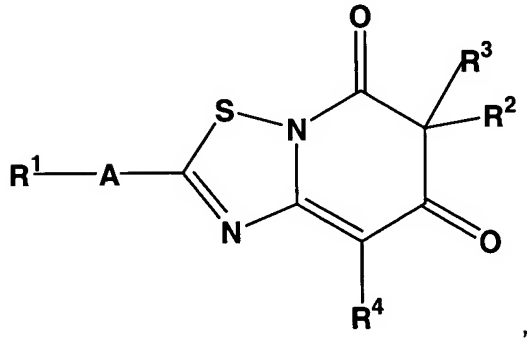

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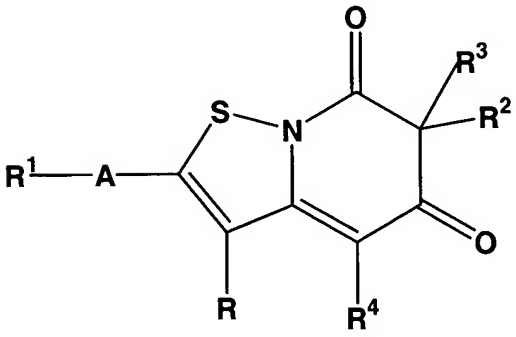

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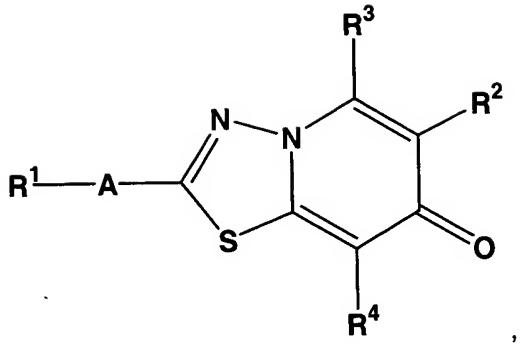

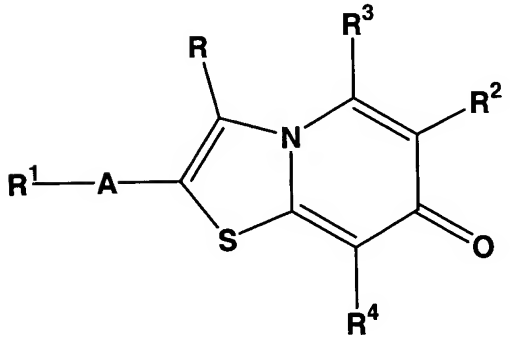

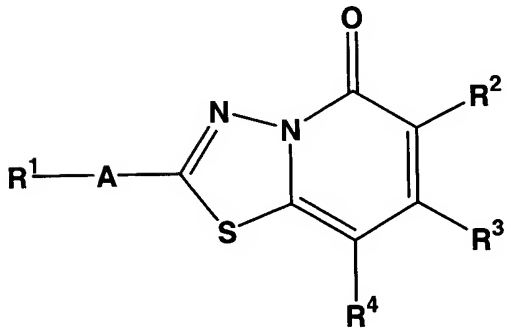

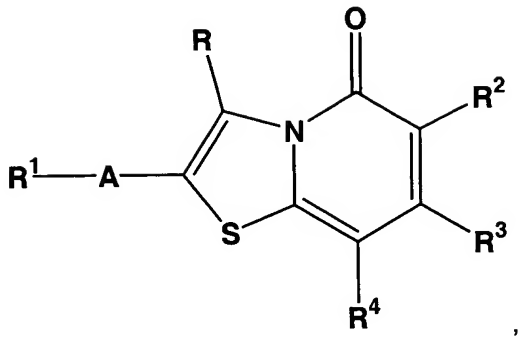
O
R
R2
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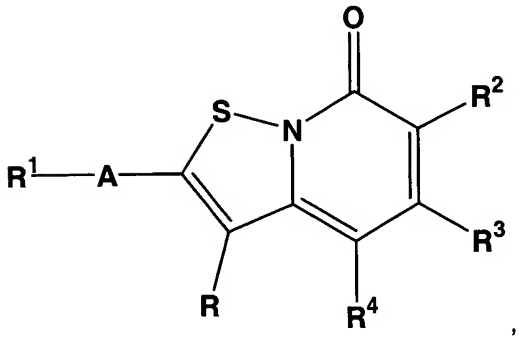
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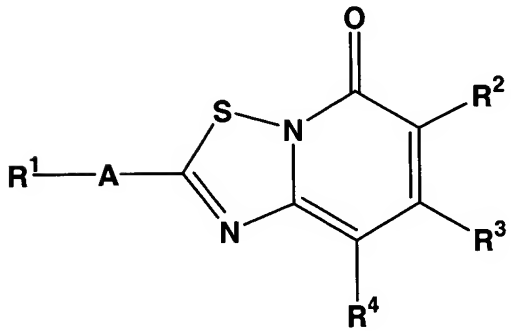
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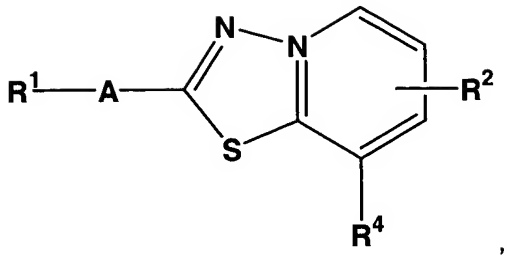
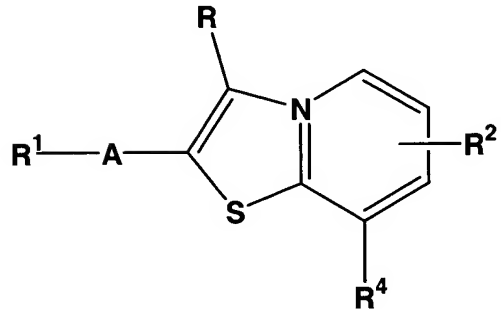


, and



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3. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R^1 is selected from $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-, $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclyl-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-$(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl-, $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl-$(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclyl-$(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-$(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-$(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl-, $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl-$(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclyl-$(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl-, and $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-$(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl-.

4. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R^2 is selected from $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-, $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclyl-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-$(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl-, $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl-$(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclyl-$(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl-, $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl-$(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-$(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl-, $(C_3\text{-}C_{10})$cycloalkyl-$(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl-, $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl-$(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl-, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heterocyclyl-$(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl-, and $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-$(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkynyl-.

5. The compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl- and $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-.

6. The compound according to Claim 1, wherein R^3, R^4, R^5, and R^6 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-.

7. The compound according to Claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:

6-Benzyl-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide

6-(4-Fluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]thiadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]thiadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]thiadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]oxadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]oxadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]oxadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-oxazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-oxazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-oxazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-thiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-thiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-thiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-indolizine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-indolizine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-7-oxo-1,7-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-7-oxo-1,7-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a condition selected from the group consisting of connective tissue disorders, inflammatory disorders, immunology/allergy disorders, infectious diseases, respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, eye diseases, metabolic diseases, central nervous system (CNS) disorders, liver/kidney diseases, reproductive health disorders, gastric disorders, skin disorders and cancers in a mammal, including a human, comprising an amount of a compound of Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, effective in such treatment and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

11. The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 8, comprising a compound according to Claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, admixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient, or diluent.

12. A method for treating arthritis, comprising administering to a patient suffering from an arthritis disease a nontoxic antiarthritic effective amount of a compound of Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

13. The method according to Claim 12, wherein the compound administered is a compound according to Claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.